

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00457 211824Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 MCT-01 /052 W
-----108816 212204Z /72
R 211713Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0185
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, EI
SUBJECT: MASON-LYNCH CLASH ON SECURITY

1. A SPOKESMAN FOR PRIME MINISTER LYNCH HAS ISSUED A QUICK REJOINDER TO NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY ROY MASON'S REPORTED REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT ON FEB 20. THE PAPERS HERE REPORT THAT MASON SAID HE DISAGREED "ABSOLUTELY & FUNDAMENTALLY" WITH JACK LYNCH'S STATEMENT THAT ONLY 2 PERCENT OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN THE NORTH EMANATE FROM SOUTH OF THE BORDER. MASON REPORTEDLY THEN SAID "2 PERCENT IS A PALTRY FIGURE".

2. THE GOI SPOKESMAN RELEASED FIGURES SUPPLIED BY THE BRITISH SHOWING THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF INCIDENTS WHICH ORIGINATED IN THE REPUBLIC WAS 2.1 PERCENT IN 1975, 1.26 PERCENT IN 1976, AND 1.06 PERCENT LAST YEAR.

3. COMMENT: MASON'S REMARKS UNDER PRESSURE IN PARLIAMENT WOULD NORMALLY NOT SPARK SUCH A BRUSQUE REJOINDER -- THE GOI UNDERSTANDS THE PRESSURES. HOWEVER, IN THE WAKE OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENT AT COMBER, COUNTY DOWN AND THE REMARKS DA THE PEACE WOMEN THAT LYNCH IS AIDING THE
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PROVISIONAL IRA (SEPTTEL), IT WAS DECIDED THAT ENOUGH IS ENOUGH AND THE GOI APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT IT DID NOT WANT AN IMAGE TO BE FOSTERED THAT IT IS SOFT ON SECURITY. A BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCE TOLD US THAT, IN FACT, HMG HAS NO COMPLAINT WHATEVER ON SECURITY COOPERATION WITH THE GOI.
SHANNON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, TERRORISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DUBLIN00457
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780078-0923
Format: TEL
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780234/aaaabciy.tel
Line Count: 61
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 490861d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3539670
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MASON-LYNCH CLASH ON SECURITY
TAGS: PINS, EI, (MASON, ROY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/490861d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014